

Listen and Learn about Racial Justice

Exploring Your Personal Biases and Calling

1

What to Expect

- Presentation then Q&A
- Breakout for small group discussions
- Topics
 - Understanding your biases
 - Awareness of how biases affect behaviors
 - Discerning your voice and your role
 - Actions you can take

2

Prayer

Ephesians 2:14-16

Reconciled Through Christ

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

3

Prayer

Ephesians 4: 14 -16

Unity in the Body of Christ

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

4

What is Your Story?

- When did you first become aware of your race?
- What interactions did you have with people of other ethnic or racial backgrounds in your formative years?
- What attitudes, perceptions and behaviors do you find most difficult to discard when interacting with people who are ethnically or racially different from yourself?

5

My Story: Segregation and Unearned Privilege



6

My Story: Ancestry and Traditions



7

My Story: Reflection and Lament

1. Why was MLK Jr. killed for the color of his skin?
2. Why was Freddie Gray killed in the back of a police van?
3. Why were the "Black people" living in Newark and not in my town?
4. Why were my ancestors able to "achieve the American dream" when so many Black families were stuck in poverty?

8

My Story: Reflection and Lament

Lord, I have sinned against you by what I have done and by what I have failed to do. I confess that I have benefitted from the sin of racism. I have treated others unfairly. I STILL treat others unfairly. I am often indifferent to prejudice that has harmed others and benefitted myself. By Your Grace, I ask for forgiveness. By Your Grace, I ask for guidance to be a conduit for justice and healing.

9

Awareness of Racial Stereotypes

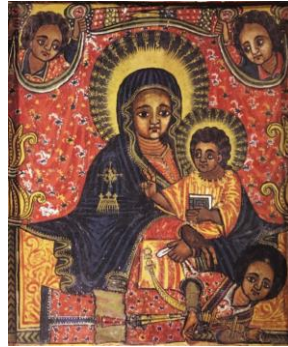


This is NOT a water bottle.

10

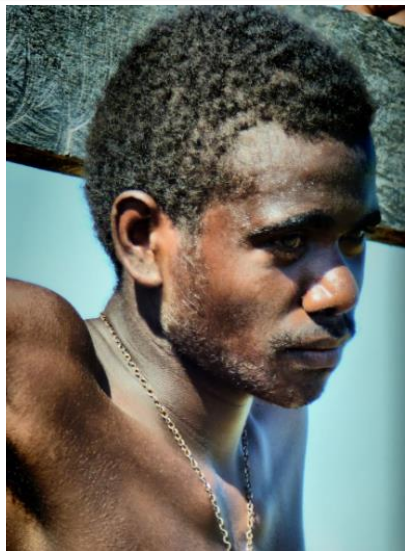
Awareness of Racial Stereotypes

*..and Jesus
said "who do
you say that I
am?"*



11

Awareness of Racial Stereotypes



12

Prayer

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Unity and Diversity in the Body

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ... **The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."** But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. **If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;** if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

13

Awareness of Some Racist Concepts

- Color-blindness ("whitewashing")
- Stereotyping
- Micro-aggression
- White fragility

14

Awareness of Some Racist Comments

- "I don't care if you are pink, purple or polka-dotted..."
- ALL lives matter
- "You must be OK with having less than...."
- "Do we really have to talk about it?"
- "I am not racist because...."

15

Discern Your Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:27-28

Unity and Diversity in the Body (cont.)

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

Stephenministries.org WomenoftheELCA.org

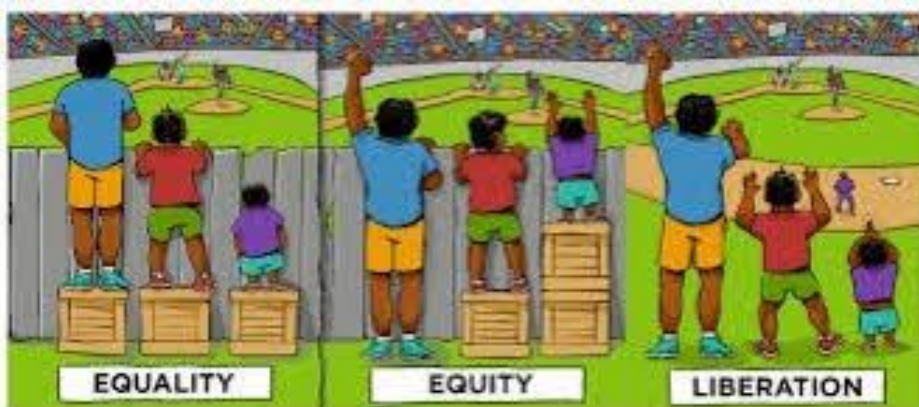
16

Discern Your Gifts

- DREAM LIKE MARTIN
- LEAD LIKE HARRIET
- FIGHT LIKE MALCOM
- THINK LIKE GARVEY
- WRITE LIKE MAYA
- BUILD LIKE MADAM C.J.
- SPEAK LIKE FREDERICK
- EDUCATE LIKE W.E.B.
- BELIEVE LIKE THURGOOD
- CHALLENGE LIKE ROSA

17

Take Action Against Racism



18

Take Action Against Racism

ELCA Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity and Culture

This church will support legislation, ordinances, and resolutions that guarantee to all persons equally:

- civil rights, including full protection of the law and redress under the law of discriminatory practices; and to all citizens, the right to vote;
- access to quality education,
- access to quality health care,
- access to quality nutrition;

19

Take Action Against Racism

ELCA Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity and Culture (cont.)

- opportunity for employment with fair compensation, and possibilities for job training and education, apprenticeship, promotion, and union membership;
- opportunity for business ownership; access to legal, banking, and insurance services;
- the right to rent, buy, and occupy housing in any place;
- and access to public transportation and accommodation.
-and the right to live with clean air and clean water...

20

Take Action Against Racism

ELCA Social Statements

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>

- Caring for Creation
- The Church and Criminal Justice
- Death Penalty
- Economic Life
- Education
- Race, Ethnicity and Culture
- Church in Society – 30 years ago!

21

Take Action Against Racism

- Have conversations about race
 - Hold each other accountable
 - Continue learning
 - Be a bridge
- Be an **ally**
- Develop a strategy for how to confront racism in your congregation, family and neighborhood.
- Donate to/Fundraise for Anti-Racism Groups
- Be a witness
- Join a protest
- Advocate for racial equity

22

Take Action Against Racism

- Letter-Writing
- Phone-Calling
- Emailing
- Personal one-on-one conversations
- Small group discussions
- Social Media
- Public Forums

23

Take Action Against Racism

Organization Websites

- ACLU.org
- Blacklivesmatter.com
- Bmoreantiracist.org
- eji.org (Equal Justice Initiative)
- Ma4jr.org (Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform)
- NAACP.org
- NationalCouncilofChurches.org/a-c-t-now-to-end-racism
- Poorpeoplescampaign.org
- Raceforward.org
- Racialequitytools.org
- Sojo.net (Sojourners magazine and publications)

24

Summary

- Know your story
- Listen to and honor the stories of others if they are willing to share them
- Identify and work to break down your biases
- Engage in honest conversations
- Take Action Against Racism

....pray throughout for God's help and guidance.